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Davis Demands Documents

In preparation for a debate on the purchase of the Grand Lucayan Hotel in Freeport Grand Bahama, the leader of the official Opposition, Philip Davis has demanded a series of documents from the government.

In a letter to Prime Minister Doctor Hubert Minnis, Mr. Davis requested the information on the acquisition of the resort if members of the House of Assembly are to deal with a

See DAVIS DEMANDS / page 7...

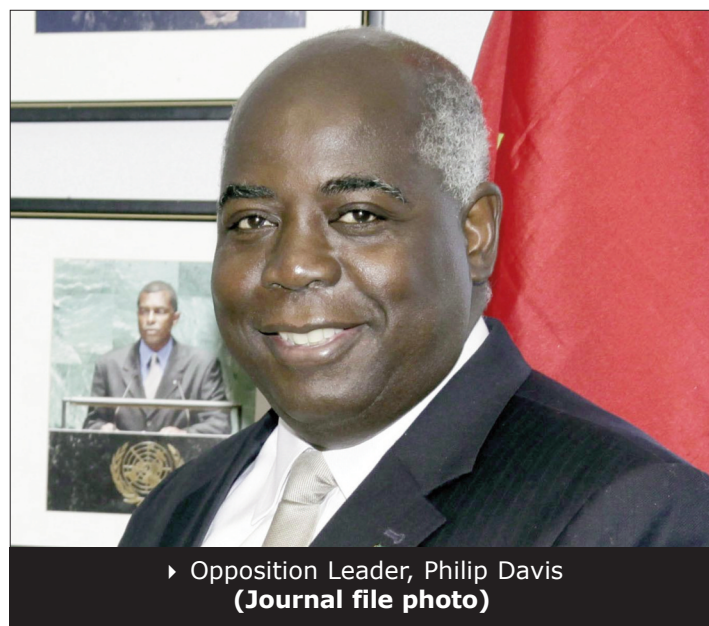
Judge Gives Order In Shane Gibson's Case

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

There is a new Judge in the bribery case of former Cabinet Minister Shane Gibson. When the case resumed yesterday in the Supreme Court, Justice Indra Charles, who replaced the late Chief Justice Stephen Isaacs set November 2nd as the date for case management and direction. The actual trial date is on 26th November.

In addition the judge made an order for the defense to get records requested from the prosecu-

See JUDGE GIVES / page 7...



► Opposition Leader, Philip Davis (Journal file photo)

PM To Release Details On Purchase

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

All details concerning the purchase of The Grand Lucayan will be laid on the table, as promised by Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, as the House resumes today.

The purchase of The Grand Lucayan has been pegged at \$65 million, but just recently it was revealed

that the government has to pay another \$1million to Hutchinson Whampoa in losses.

Press Secretary, Anthony Newbold, yesterday remained tightlipped at the weekly press briefing, leaving all announcements to the Prime Minister. However he said the government does

See RELEASE / page 7...

No Talks Between Gov't And Gaming Operators

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

The legal Counsel for TIG Investments, Wayne Munroe QC, said he has had no formal meetings with the government regarding the stamp tax and operator's tax to be imposed on gaming houses since the court hearing.

TIG Investments represents Island Games, Paradise Games and Asure Win.

According to Mr. Munroe, their issue is that the government did not consult gaming operators before the tax was imposed.

At the court hearing held on August 31st, Supreme Court Justice Indra Charles recommended that the government and the Web Shop Houses' legal team are to discuss the merits of the case before the next hearing.

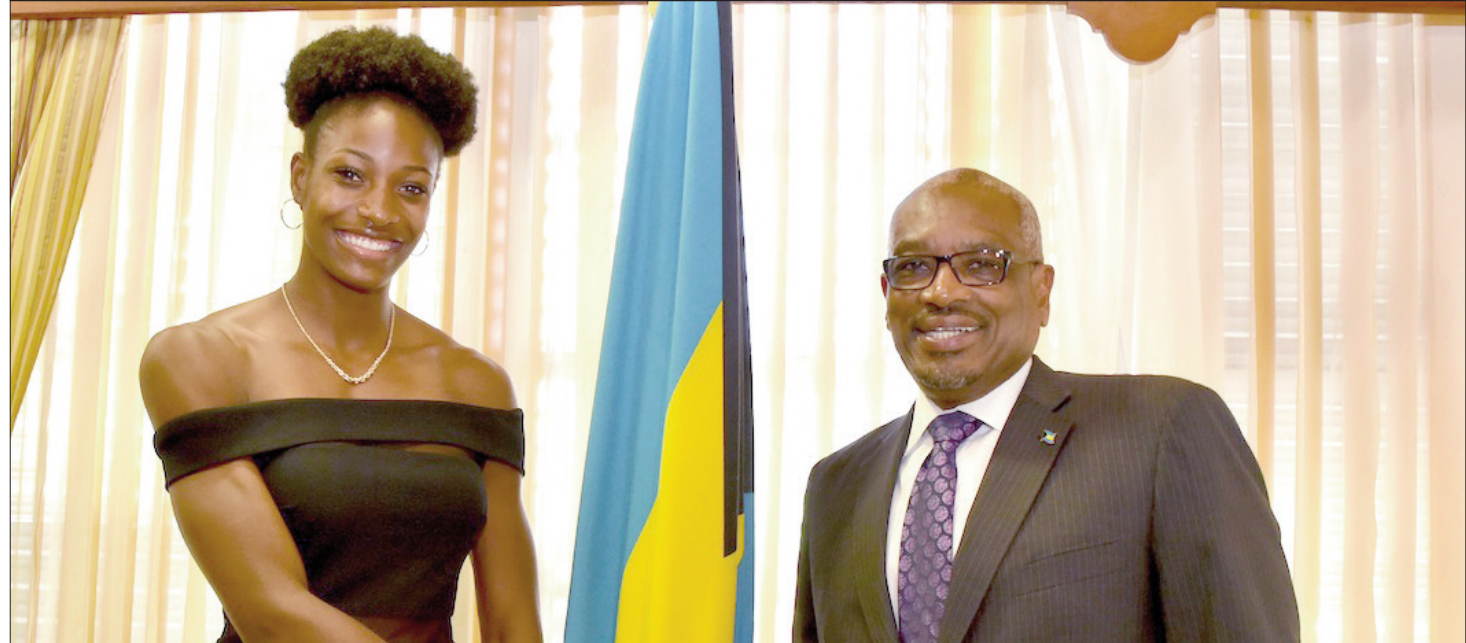
"I have not had any formal meeting with the government since the court hearing when the process of sending them correspondents to resolve some of the challenges that we see arising in the stamp duty regime.

"That will involve basically setting out to them practically the issues that we see, bearing in mind of course that in stamp duty you're collecting tax for the government. So there are certain things that has to happen that hasn't happen yet," he said.

When it comes to the operator's tax, Mr. Munroe's issue is that the wording of the regulation is vague and

See NO TALKS / page 7...

OLYMPIAN SHAUNAE MILLER-UIBO PAYS COURTESY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER



► Bahamas Olympic 400 - Metre Gold Medal Winner Shaunae Miller-Uibo paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis today at Cabinet Office, Churchill Building, downtown. Shaunae is pictured greeting the Prime Minister. She also had the opportunity to meet members of the Cabinet after her courtesy call, and is pictured seated next to the Prime Minister and her husband, Maicel Uibo, along with her mother and father, Mabelene and Shaun Miller, surrounded by the members of the Cabinet. (BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)

PM's Immigration Comments Called "Idle Boast"



► Senator Fred Mitchell, Chairman of the PLP Party (Journal file photo)

The Chairman of the Progressive Liberal Party, Senator Fred Mitchell says "Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis can be accused of being a political hypocrite if he does not act on his posturing on Immigration matters as reported in the press yesterday.

"We expect the Prime Minister on Immigration to put his money where his mouth is on immigration.

Quite frankly nobody believes a word of it. It's called idle political posturing just like he did when calling for the death penalty."

He called the Prime Minister's comments "yet another idle boast."

Senator Mitchell was reacting to comments made by Dr. Minnis on Monday when he called on Bahamians to obey the immigration laws and com-

plained that too many works permits were being issued.

The Senator said, "the public must not be fooled for one second about the Prime Minister's concerns on immigration and work permits and permanent residence. It is fine to say he is going to cut down on work permits, but the reality is that the Government has come to depend on immigration permit revenue to pay for its

annual expenses.

"Immigration permits contribute some 50 million dollars annually to the Treasury," he said.

Mr. Mitchell said, "the other issue which practically arises is that the main category of work permits dispensed are those for maids, housekeepers and gardeners. When the PLP indicated that

See IMMIGRATION / page 7...

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 Rock Sound, Eleuthera

PLP Appeals To The Public

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Fred Mitchell made an appeal to the public to pay close attention to the PLP's contribution in The House of Assembly today.

The debate will be whether the house gives the government the authority to borrow \$35 million to help pay for the \$65 million purchase of the Grand Lucayan Resort in Grand Bahama, which he described as being 'a dead hotel'.

Mr. Mitchell said that he

knows a lot of people have pushback because it's the PLP, saying this and that the PLP lost the election.

"Are we going to take \$65 million of our hard earned money and dump it down a hole, a hole that has no end?"

"They say that this is

being done to promote job creation in Grand Bahamas, but since they have announced this, not one job has been created, that's the issue.

"What is the plan? There is no plan, it is just open ended and it appears to just be dumping money down a

hole," he said.

He stressed that the PLP supports the people of Grand Bahamas, but the PLP wants the money to be spent wisely to create jobs for them and to not waste funds.

This comes just a few weeks after the government agreed to buy the Resort for

\$65 million in an effort to create jobs and to jump start Grand Bahama's economy.

Shortly thereafter, the government made a \$10 million deposit on the resort and which followed the notice sent to employees that they are now employees of The Bahamas Government.

Minister Renews Commitment to Marine Environment

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Environment Remauld Ferreria said the only way to ensure sustainability and the sustainable development of the country's national resource is to base it on science and not just economic benefit.

Mr. Ferreria said that The Bahamas has been committed to the protection of its marine environment. He added that there are some important milestones that prove this point.

"Important milestones including the creation of the sea gardens which was in 1892 to the northeast of

New Providence Island, the establishment of the Exuma Land and Sea Park in 1958 and the passage of the fisheries jurisdiction and conservation act in 1967 which among other things protect the sea coast."

In the country's effort to enforce this the Bahamas National Protection Agency

protects 10 per cent of the country's natural resources and according to Mr. Ferreria, the government is committed to achieving the remaining 10 per cent in the near future.

"At the turn of the millennium, the government of the Bahamas supported by local conservation partners

and other key stakeholders, renewed this commitment to sustaining a healthy marine environment by creating a network of marine protected areas.

"In more recent times, the Bahamas formally committed to the Caribbean challenge initiative to effectively conserve at least 20

per cent of the near shore marine resources of the Bahamas by 2020," he said.

Currently, the Bahamas national protected area system protects 10 per cent of marine resources.

This commitment he said, ensures long term sustainability of the country's marine resources.

COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER ROLLE: A CELEBRATION FOR SHAUNAE MILLER-UIBO



► Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture the Hon. Lanisha Rolle commemorates a "welcome home" courtesy call for Olympic Gold-Medalist and 2018 Diamond League Winner Shaunae Miller-Uibo with a celebration of live Junkanoo, Bahamian music, art, and food, at her Ministry's University Drive Head Office, on September 17, 2018. (BIS Photos / Eric Rose)

Surrounded by cheering well-wishers and waving Bahamian flags, Olympic Gold-Medalist and 2018 Diamond League Winner Shaunae Miller-Uibo arrived at the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture (MOYSC) for a courtesy call that was a celebration for all present, on September 17, 2018, even those cheering and dancing to live Junkanoo music on the two floors above the building's main floor.

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture the Hon. Lanisha Rolle told those gathered in the University Drive Head Office that "many athletes have done virtuously, today we welcome home the one, who in this season, excels them all".

Among those present and bringing greetings throughout the festivities included Minister of Education the Hon. Jeffrey Lloyd; MOYSC Acting Permanent Secretary Ms. Rhoda Jackson; MOYSC Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary and Director of Youth Darron Turnquest; Director of Sports Timothy Munnings; Director of Culture Rowena Poirier Sutherland; Coordinator for the Sports Unit at the

Ministry of Education Evon Wisdom; other senior government officials; Shaunae's husband and athlete Maicel Uibo, and her father Shaun Miller.

There was also a musical serenade, bouquet and portrait presentation by two internationally-renowned and award-winning Bahamians – recording artist Julien Believe and visual artist Jamaal "The Celebrity Artist" Rolle, respectively. Wildflowers Events and Occasions created the bouquet. The Courtyard Marriott in Nassau also presented Mrs. Miller-Uibo with a "lifetime" stay certificate.

Minister Rolle said that The Bahamas is respected for its world class status in the discipline of track and field, and, over the years, multiple disciplines in the sporting arena.

"The mark of this country and its people will forever be engraved in the annals of world sports history, as a small country that produces great people and does great things," Minister Rolle said. "Today, we are still moving forward. Repeated gold medals, consistent world records, dazzling performances, extraordinary team

work and undisputed winning titles."

She added that from the country's first Olympians of 1948, "sailing giants" the late Sir Durward Knowles and Sloane Farrington – with Sir Durward later becoming the Olympic champion in 1964 in Tokyo – to Thomas A. Robinson with the country's first track medal in 1954 and then moving up to become The Bahamas' first track Olympic finalist in 1964; to 1976, when her political colleague, the Hon. Shonel Ferguson entered the Olympic stage to represent the country in sprint and long jump.

Minister Rolle also pointed to the "captivating experience" of the Golden Girls of 1999 during the Olympic games in Sydney, Australia; the "extraordinary demonstration of team-work" by the Golden Knights of 2012; and adding "then the unforgettable and stellar performances of Tonique Williams-Darling; to the spectacular serves of our tennis Olympian, Mark Knowles; the amazing sprints of our swimming darling, Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace, and a host of other great Bahamian athletes.

"The Bahamas is a great nation."

"This small island state has a sporting track record bar none, and today we stand proudly on the shoulders of these great men and women who have sealed, and continue to seal for our country, a reputation of greatness, and remain a force to be reckoned with on any stage," she noted.

"It is my humble yet considered opinion, that today, we have surpassed the gold, with our Shaunae, we have made it platinum," Minister Rolle stated. "With the help of the Almighty God, there is no stopping us now."

Minister Rolle told those in attendance that her Ministry and, in particular, the division of sports, was pleased to "welcome home" Mrs. Miller-Uibo.

"From Shaunae - the primary school runner, to Shaunae - the high school champion, Shaunae - the junior and senior girls star of the team, Shaunae - national record holder, Shaunae - regional super-star, then Shaunae - the international new comer and now, Shaunae - world leading athlete – to Shaunae, our daughter of the Bahamian soil -- For your

excellence in service to country, Shaunae - we salute you," Minister Rolle declared.

"Indeed, with grace, tenacity, endurance, agility and discipline, you have kept focused and you have made us proud," she added.

Minister Rolle pointed out that Mrs. Miller-Uibo managed to return home with an undefeated athletic season.

"We encourage you to continue to challenge yourself, to continue to set new goals and records for your Bahamian counterparts to utilize as a benchmark, to continue to be that example for your siblings, and for those around you, especially the athletes who look up to you and who will follow," Minister Rolle said. "Continue to make your family proud and to serve your country with pride, and most of all, continue to be you."

"Shaunae, I want you to know that more than your performances, this nation loves you and appreciates you," she added. "Win or lose, we are your lifetime fans, on your good days or your not so good days, we are your devoted cheerleaders, for now and always. We wish you the very best."

Minister Rolle told Mrs.

Miller-Uibo that it was essential for her to state that the country celebrates her at the peak of her career, and the nation will always remember what she has done for it.

She said: "Shaunae, your performance, and that of your sporting colleagues, in particular, Donald Thomas and Steven Gardiner – both of whom are individually and collectively making great strides on the world stage – have inspired this year's theme for National Sports Month to be celebrated in November: 'Ain't no Stoppin' us Now – We're on the Move!'"

"I wish to say here that we look forward to the participation and support of all our available athletes both past and present, as the country pauses to recognize and celebrate our heroes of sports, then and now," Minister Rolle said. "That being said, on behalf of the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, and, in particular the Sports Division of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, we welcome home, 'our Shaunae' with this chant: Go Shaunae, Go! Go Shaunae, Go! Go Shaunae, Go!"



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PUBLIC TENDER

VESSEL FOR PURCHASE

The Ministry of Finance advises that the following vessel has been forfeited to the Crown following breaches of the Fisheries Resources Jurisdiction and Conservation Act and resulting in the selling by Tender:

Vessel	Description
Name of Vessel:	Brailyn
Manufactured By:	Unknown
Make:	Unknown
Model Year:	Unknown

*The Brailyn is a 53ft. fibreglass hull fishing vessel with extensive modifications. This vessel is equipped with Twin Detroit 6V Marne Diesel engines and one (1) four cylinder Cummins 35kw generator.

Interested persons may view the vessel by visiting the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Base, located on Coral Harbour, between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday from September 10, 2018 to September 28, 2018.

Bids should be addressed in a sealed envelope to **The Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance, 1st Floor Cecil Wallace Whitfield Building, West Bay Street by 5:00 pm on September 28, 2018.**

The face of the envelope should bear the words "Tender for Confiscated Vessel".

Each successful bidder will be required to make full payment to the Public Treasury, Nassau, Bahamas by cash, certified cheque, or credit/ debit cards for the vehicle being purchased within ten (10) working days of being notified by the Ministry of Finance. The successful bidder will be responsible for making full arrangements for the removal of the vessel within two (2) working days after full payment has been made.

The Ministry of Finance reserves the right to reject any or all bids and the items are being sold "as is where is" with no warranty to be implied or inferred. For vessels that are not registered in The Bahamas no guarantee is given as to its eligibility for registration elsewhere.

Marlon Johnson
(Actg.) Financial Secretary



NOTICE

The Ministry of Public Works/Bahamix, has scheduled Milling and Paving works for Bernard Road from 9:30a.m. to 2:00p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning September 19th 2018, for 21 working days.

The resurfacing of Bernard Road will extend from the "Village Rd/Wulff Rd/Soldier Rd Junction" to the Roundabout at Fox Hill Freedom Park.

Bernard Road will be divided into eight (8) paving sections to minimize traffic congestion. The paving Sections are listed below:

Wulff/Village/Soldier	– Thompson Street
Thompson Street	– Hillside Park Road
Hillside Park Road	– Windsor Street
Windsor Street	– Adderley Street
Adderley Street	– Grant Street
Grant Street	– Cockburn Street
Cockburn Street	– Rahming Street
Rahming Street	– Fox Hill Roundabout

There will be east and west bound lane closures implemented for the sections and for the duration of the works. Traffic diversions will be put into effect for each "section".

Provisions will be made for residents and businesses where necessary. Motorists are asked to avoid the area if possible.

You are asked to be aware of and acknowledge the posted traffic paving signs in the area.

If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact us at telephone numbers (242) 361-3886 or (242) 341-3886.

Bahamix apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

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NOTICE

The Royal Bahamas Defence Force invites bids to the Tenders Board for insurance coverage for The Royal Bahamas Defence Force's Building, Musical Instruments, and Warehouses.

2. Specifications and schedules of assets can be obtained from the Ministry of Finance, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

3. The quotes must be itemized to show the following:
a) Increased Value
b) Protection and Indemnity

4. In providing quotations, reference the Buildings, the Musical Instruments and Warehouses for the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, the date for commencing coverage is the 30th September 2018 to 30th September 2020. The final date for submission is Friday 14th September 2018.

All submissions are to reach the Ministry of Finance by 5:00 p.m. on or before the above-mentioned date and to be addressed to the:

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NYGARD'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY EXTRAVAGANZA

The 2018 series salutes fashion mogul Peter Nygård's Golden Jubilee detailing his rags to riches story and incredible business success over these past fifty years. The Clifton Review will take an inside look at how he did it.

THE CLIFTON REVIEW

By P. J. Malone

The Clifton Review is a bi-weekly column that examines the question of the Clifton project along with the evolution of the war between two billionaires, the links to unsavory characters, the use of the courts for personal agendas, the involvement of the Government opposition party (the FNM), and the attacks on the Government of The Bahamas.

Fashion mogul Peter Nygard celebrated his fifty years in business in grand style last week. It began with the opening of a new entrance to his 155,000-square foot head office and distribution centre in the city of Winnipeg located in the Manitoba Province of Canada.

However, the crowning glory featured at the grand opening was the new NYGARD Gallery that walks you through the company's history, tells Nygard's rags-to-riches story and showcases Nygard artifacts like the one-room structure Nygard's family lived in after immigrating to Canada.

His celebration activities ended Friday night with a gala filled with the opulence of a star-studded Hollywood event. The Winnipeg Free Press described it as follows:

Dressed in a tux and tails and making a grand entrance surrounded by supermodels, fashion mogul Peter Nygård threw a 50th anniversary party for his Nygård International in Winnipeg on Friday night that rivalled any Hollywood bash.

The sold-out, black-tie gala at the RBC Convention Centre featured 1,800 guests, a dining area that looked like Arctic tundra, a New York-style fashion show and a VIP list with dignitaries from Finland, country star Tanya Tucker, Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman, deputy premier Heather Stefanson, MP Terry Duguid and a video greeting from Winnipeg Jets and Finnish hockey superstar Teemu Selanne.

Models, dressed in military-style jean bomber jackets with Nygård's image on the back, greeted guests and then put on a runway show featuring fashions from the five decades of Nygård's career, set to booming music and flashing lights. (Reporter Ashley Prest: "Nygård hosts Hollywood-worthy anniversary gala: Fashion mogul celebrates 50th anniversary, eyes 100th". September 14, 2018)

Can you imagine a ball with 1800 people in attendance? What a grand celebration and one so well earned by Peter Nygard who has taken a struggling company to heights of hundreds of millions over fifty years.

The article shares this about Nygard's company from a company executive:

"It's a Winnipeg company with offices all over the world, but this is our home. For him to invest \$5 million in his Winnipeg office and donate over \$22 million to CancerCare Manitoba and the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, tonight is celebrating his investment here on so many levels," said Sharon Clarke, the company's vice-president of communications.

Additionally, the article reveals these sentiments from a 40-year NYGARD associate:

"I love working for him because he's a brilliant man and he has so much vision. He treats us all like family," said Law, 85, vice-president of technical design. She worked in Hong Kong from 1986-1990 among other Nygård locations and frequently travels to Nygård's other corporate offices in New York, Los Angeles, Shanghai, Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver.

The reporter shares the following final note in the article: "In a promotional video marking the 50th anniversary which was shown at the gala, the 74-year-old Nygård suggested he plans to stick around for another 50 years."

One thing you can say about Peter Nygard: whatever he does, he does in style. There are countless videos of fifty years of extravaganzas with fashion shows and major events including years of star-studded Hollywood galas for the Oscars that Nygard sponsored. The thing they all have in common is that they are done well and done with quintessential Nygard elegance and panache.

Congratulations once again Peter Nygard on your phenomenal fifty years of achievements!

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The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimalee P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

Skills Matter

Prime Minister the Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis has done it again; with this repetition of effort being his conflation of one real issue with another to which it is not necessarily linked.

As the prime minister sought to explain: "...The current deficit of required skills among the unemployed is a part of the reason why so many employers have hired foreign workers..."

If the truth be told: Deeper analysis suggests that the very presence of this so-called set of gaps is evidence suggestive of a species of conclusions to the effect that, the Government itself can and should expedite the granting of status to men and women who -albeit not born in this country- have what it takes to make a contribution of value to the orderly growth and development of The Bahamas.

Clearly, then: There is all around us evidence suggestive of the easy conclusion that [indeed] there is a yawning gap between jobs available in the marketplace and people ready, able and willing to fill them.

As we learn [from Matt Maura]: "...Thirty-four per cent of employers complain that finding job-specific skills among the unemployed is the most difficult issue when attempting to hire..."

Obviously, no one in their right mind can or should differ with what seems painfully self-evident; there are simply not enough skilled persons who can fill this bill.

And thus, we feel constrained to agree with this exemplar of what a leading citizen should be about in these perilous times.

And thus, we are on all fours with Maura as he and his colleagues try to do their bit to help crack this nut.

As he says concerning a recent 'symposium' on this skills and productivity matter: "At the end of our dialogue, we will draft a document to present to government which will hopefully assist with charting the way forward for the country as it relates to closing the skills gap in the country."

One of the more curious facts that matter in today's deeply challenged Bahamas has to do with how so very many of our leaders routinely eschew basing their views and policy prescriptions on real evidence.

And thus, in instance after perilous instance, someone or the other arrogates to him or herself some kind of special right to pontificate on issues that wreak of prejudice and ignorance, sometimes in equal measure.

In this regard, reference needs only be made to issues such as those pertaining to so-called 'illegals' or to matters concerning crime, punishment and justice and all those others which pertain to how human capital is or should be economically harnessed.

And thus -as in the case of Rock Sound, Eleuthera-some of those- wishing-to-become-newest of Bahamians are proving the value and worth of their sweated contribution to that community's orderly growth and development.

As such, they should be welcomed! And paradoxically, then, we admit that we are in the fullest of agreement when the nation's pre-eminent political leader argues as follows:--"...If you allow illegals to continue to be employed under the radar and establish an underground economy then that has a great effect on your society and they would continue to come here once there are opportunities and so, therefore, we, as mature citizens, should respect the law and apply for them properly..."

Yes: Of course! And yes it is absolutely correct to say that: "...The dire need to address the current skills gap has been deemed a national priority..."

But yet, our caveat to the matter now on the agenda is this: Is it not a fact that what is needed now more than ever before are policies which lead those who do the best they can would be for them to recognize that countries grow by way of both natural increase and by immigration.

THE BAHAMAS
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The Bahama Journal

NO BETTER READING

The advertisement features a collage of newspaper front pages from The Bahama Journal. The main headline on the collage is "Four Bodies Claimed" with a sub-headline "Haitian Burials Imminent". Other visible headlines include "Brush Fire Scorches Acres of Land", "22ND MURDER VICTIM Identified", "Debris Hinders Business For Ferry Operators", and "Alleged Election Fraudster A No-Show In Court". The collage also includes various smaller articles and advertisements, such as "Deans Building Supplies" and "GO TANKLESS". The background of the advertisement is a scenic view of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore.

Meeting of UNESCO World Heritage Steering Committee



► **Sitting from left:** Dr. Gail Saunders, Historian and Professor, University of the Bahamas; Lorraine Armbrister, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education; H.E. Desmond Edwards, JP, Ambassador to UNESCO; Dr. Linda Moxey-Brown, Director of Culture. **Standing from left:** Dr. Lisa FitzCharles, Ministry of Education; Larissa Cartwright, Environmental Officer, B.E.S.T. Commission; Kim Outten-Stubbs, Antiquities Monuments & Museums Corporation; Erica Ferreira, Ferreira & Co.; Deidre Bevans, UNESCO Administrative Officer; Clarence Clare, UNESCO Secretary General Designate; and Brent Dean, Editor and General Manager, The Nassau Guardian.

A Meeting of the Steering Committee of UNESCO World Heritage, was held at the Ministry of Education on the 13th September 2018.

The Steering Committee examined the way forward in promoting the ideals of

UNESCO, protecting national cultural and intangible cultural heritage, and accessing technical, financial and consultancy assistance in the areas of UNESCO competency, being Education, Culture, Science, and Communication.

The Bahamas is replete with Cultural Heritage sites, dating back to Lucayan times, natural wonders and various cultural assets that are sprinkled throughout the archipelago, which is of interest to UNESCO whose membership

consists of 195 countries around the world.

Bahamas Ambassador to UNESCO, HE Desmond Edwards said that UNESCO is responsible for coordinating international cooperation in education, science, culture

and communication. It strengthens the ties between nations and societies and mobilizes the wider public so that each child and citizen has access to a quality education, lives in a cultural environment rich in diversity and dia-

logue, where heritage serves as a bridge between generations and peoples, can fully benefit from scientific advances, and where each citizen can enjoy full freedom of expression, the basis of democracy.

BLUE LAGOON RAISES THE BAR ON CUSTOMER SERVICE

● First in Bahamas to Receive Cruise Line Customer Service Training From Aquila Center for Cruise Excellence

Blue Lagoon Island, home of Dolphin Encounters, has raised the bar on customer service by having 120 members of their team be the first in The Bahamas to participate in the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) Frontline and Customer Service Workshop provided by Aquila Training, The Center For Cruise Excellence.

The full day in-house workshop, conducted by Claudine Pohl of Aquila, focused on preparing front-line staff with ways to provide an even higher level of customer service to guests. Attendees were taught how to handle difficult situations, how to deal with guests under pressure, how to communicate effectively, and how to stay focused, all in an effort to engage and offer visitors to Blue Lagoon Island a more enjoyable experience.

"Providing each guest with excellent customer service is always our goal but we want-

ed to go further and learn ways to raise the bar even higher," said Diego Tripaldi, Regional Director, Meister Group of Companies. "When we decided to look for training we chose Aquila as they are the gold standard and came highly recommended from the cruise line industry. The in-house course our staff took was incredibly well received by all and is already making a tremendous difference."

As the exclusive training partner for the FCCA, the Aquila Center for Cruise Excellence has helped everyone in the cruise industry exceed expectations. From destinations and ports, to tour operators and guides, they have trained people in 55 different countries to great success. Known for watching and responding to trends in travel, Aquila has offered full receptive operator services in Atlantic Canada, as well as tour operator services for groups to destinations around

the world.

"It's exciting to see a company, like Blue Lagoon Island that already has a great level of customer service, really take this seriously and want to set a new level and be recognized in the cruise industry as the first in The Bahamas to have their staff trained," said Ms. Pohl. "This first workshop was for 120 employees but the company will have every member of their team participate in a variety of our in-house workshops targeted towards front-line staff, tour guides and more, by the end of 2018. They are one of the few operations that have had their entire company trained at this level. It shows great commitment and determination that the company wants to keep growing."

"Blue Lagoon Island, home of Dolphin Encounters, hosts many cruise guests every year and with every customer that visits, we want to be sure that we exceed



► Robert Meister, Managing Director of Blue Lagoon Island, Home of Dolphin Encounters (far left); Diego Tripaldi, Regional Director, Meister Group of Companies (second left); and Stefan Meister, Meister Group of Companies (far right) along with 120 Team Blue Lagoon Island members, completed training with Claudine Pohl, with Aquila, The Center For Cruise Excellence.

their expectations and have them leave our island and country with an amazing experience," said Robert Meister, Managing Director of Blue Lagoon Island. "Our

entire team is committed to Customer Service and the training we have received from Aquila has changed the way we relate to our guests in an impactful way. This is

only the beginning; we will be working with the Aquila Center for Cruise Excellence on an ongoing basis to keep improving our level of service."

Integrity Commission and Ombudsman Bill must be prioritized

As The House of Assembly prepares to reopen session today, The Organization for Responsible Governance (ORG), a not-for-profit aimed at good governance, education reform, and economic development, is probing the status of the Integrity Commission and Ombudsman Bills, tabled in parliament nearly a year ago.

"It has been an eventful summer; headlines such as the BPL Board dismissals and the accusations in recent high profile corruption cases reinforce the need to put best practice anti-corruption measures in place such as the Integrity Commission and Ombudsman," said Matt

Aubry, Executive Director of ORG. "Independent mechanisms to investigate and handle allegations of corruption, maladministration and conflict of interest, such as these bills, could make a marked difference in the fight against corruption. They create a clear pathway of how citizens can report and pursue concerns of corruption".

The Integrity Commission and Ombudsman Bills were tabled in October 2017 as an answer to the Prime Minister's campaign promise to focus on transparency, accountability and anti-corruption.

The Ombudsman Bill will establish a body to proactive-

ly address misgovernment and advocate for the people in the event of government maladministration. "If you have ever experienced an unnecessarily frustrating process, poorly managed service, or issues of inappropriate conduct of public officers, this bill would provide a complaint body to arbitrate on behalf of the people," said Aubry.

The Integrity Commission Bill will dissolve the current Public Disclosure Committee and establish a comprehensive and independent anti-corruption body to reform anti-corruption policy, investigate issues of corruption, administer public disclosure,

and educate the public. According to Aubry, "This bill could be the first step to change a culture of corruption decades in the making. Ultimately these bills are about power to the people, giving the Bahamian people avenues to hold those in power to account. That is heart of accountable governance."

The Organization pressed for updates on the bills, which were circulated for consultation in January 2018 but have since shown no public signs of progress.

"There seems to be little public discussion on this bill in recent months. In the past, MPs have expressed con-

cerns about the thoroughness of the code of conduct within the Integrity Commission Bill, at times calling it "intrusive." If there are concerns about the bill then we recommend creating a public forum for consultation to amend the draft. We urge Cabinet not to wait any longer on these landmark bills and to make them a priority in the legislation agenda. Along with Fiscal Responsibility and Freedom of Information, these bills are ORG's primary focus and we will continue to press for progress on behalf of all living in The Bahamas."

Despite apprehensions about the prolonged silence

on the Integrity Commission and Ombudsman Bills, ORG commended the promised upcoming slate of legislation.

"We are of course pleased at the priority that the DPM and PM have given the Fiscal Responsibility Bill and look forward to it being amongst the first debated, as promised. The companion Public Financial Management Bill, Public Debt Management Bill, and the Public Procurement Bill, which the DPM stated were currently being drafted, are also efforts to be commended and we look forward to them being circulated broadly for public consultation in the near future."

Police Investigate Shooting Incident

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

New Providence Police are investigating a shooting incident which left a man with injuries.

According to reports, shortly before 9:00am yesterday, a man was standing outside his home on Bowe Alley off Finlayson Street, when he got into a verbal altercation with another man.

The man then shot him with a firearm before running away.

The victim was transported to hospital and is listed in stable condition.

Investigations are ongoing.

ing.

Meantime, Police are seeking the public's help in locating wanted suspect.

The suspect is wanted for questioning in connection with an armed robbery investigation.

Edward Colebrooke, 18, of Sixth Street, Coconut Grove is described as being 5'9 tall, slim built with dark brown complexion.

He is considered armed and dangerous.

Police are asking anyone who may know the whereabouts of Colebrooke to contact the Central Detective Unit at 502- 9991/2,

919/911, crime stoppers at 328-TIPS or the nearest police station.

Police are also seeking the public's help in locating a man who has been reported missing by family members on 11th September, 2018.

Aaron Dudley Smith, 35, of Stack Avenue, Nassau Village is described as being approximately 6" tall, slim build with brown complexion.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Aaron Smith is also asked to contact the Central Detective Unit, crime stoppers or the nearest Police Station.

Davis Demands Documents

Continued from / PAGE 1...

government resolution and guarantee of a loan for the resort.

Mr. Davis, the MP for Cat Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador asked the Prime Minister for the following:

I. The signed Sales Agreement.

2. Description or list of all the properties and assets being acquired including inter alia hotels, buildings, golf courses etc.

3. Copies of the recent appraisal of the resort properties and quantity surveyors report on estimate of cost of repairs and restoration of the hurricane damaged properties and inventories to make them operational;

4. Particulars of the due diligence performed by the Government prior to concluding the purchase agreement including profit and loss statements;

5. Particulars of hurricane related insurance claims and amount of settlement received by Vendor which should have been part of due diligence recovery and purchase negotiations;

6. In addition to the purchase price of \$65million, what are the projected costs of insurance coverage, staff benefits and severance, operation and maintenance over a month 's period, bearing in mind it would normally take 6 months for closing on a sale of this magnitude after a buyer has been identified. Are there any other liabilities?

7. Particulars of the business plan to support this transaction;

8. Source and particulars of funding of operational costs and when will Government seek Parliamentary approval of same;

9. The required prospectus being circulated in pursuit of interested purchasers, the particulars of any interested investors with whom negotiations are being conducted;

10. Plans for airlift and operation of the casino;
II. Particulars of the professional advisors and estimated cost of their services in relation to this exercise and
12. Quantum of stamp duty and closing costs being borne by Government.

PM's Immigration Comments Called "Idle Boast"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

it would cease all work permits for maids, gardeners and housekeepers, there was almost a revolt.

"The feedback is that Bahamians and residents here want to be able to freely choose who works in their homes. They argue about pri-

vacy concerns and dependability.

"If he thought he had problems with Lyford Cay when he raised their real property taxes, watch what will happen to our Prime Minister if he tries to wear them off their foreign maids and gardeners. We do not believe the FNM and their

Prime Minister have the stomach to do what he says. It will never happen and we dare him to try.

"The Prime Minister therefore knows that he can do nothing about it and will pay a political price if he tries to do so," said Senator Mitchell.

It is yet another idle boast.

PM To Release Details On Purchase

Continued from / PAGE 1...

not intend to be involved with the hotel much longer.

"Remember now, the government bought this property to sell it.

"They took some actions to avert further disaster," he added.

"What was happening in Grand Bahama was a disaster, still is a disaster, until the government concludes this and gets it going the way it

ought to go.

"So, the government is not out there buying this hotel saying, you know five years from now we're going to be making a profit.

"The government does not intend to be involved in this hotel five years from now."

Mr. Newbold said that the government will be responsible for the property until they find a buyer for The Grand Bahama resort.

When asked what happens

if it takes longer than expected to sell, the press secretary said the government is confident that this won't be the case.

"It's a hypothetical, we shouldn't go there.

"We'll see what happens after the sale is done with this guarantee tomorrow," he added.

"There's been interest expressed and the government is confident that they will be able to sell it."

Judge Gives Order In Shane Gibson's Case

Continued from / PAGE 1...

tion in the matter.

Talks of fixed testimonials and claims of police interference were again an arguing point for the defense in the extortion and bribery case.

Affidavits were submitted last month suggesting that some degree of witness coaching and evidence alter-

ations took place, making any submitted evidence tainted.

The defense yesterday argued that it was improper conduct for the police to have conducted meetings with the crown's key witness - Jonathan Ash - against Mr. Gibson to allegedly coach him on the evidence.

Mr. Gibson is accused of receiving \$610,000 in bribes

from Ash.

He was initially charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit extortion, two counts of conspiracy to commit bribery, 15 counts of extortion, 16 counts of bribery and one count of misconduct in public office.

However, all but the bribery charges were dropped earlier this year.

No Talks Between Gov't And Gaming Operators

Continued from / PAGE 1...

that it would be for them to explain the regulation, which he stressed is yet to have happened.

"We haven't had face to face meetings, they have not to date agreed on anyone of these issues, so we're going to be sending them correspondence and we'll see how they respond to that," Mr. Munroe said.

He said that since before the court case, the government did not respond to any of the letters written to them to sit down and talk about the taxes.

Up to now, even after the court case Mr. Munroe said that no response had been made to any letters of the outstanding letters or any communication after.

He said, "we're going to follow up yet again, the judge can recommend that you talk, but she can't make you talk. We can ask to sit down and talk to you, but we can't make you talk to us."

Mr. Munroe added that if

the government decides to discuss the merits of the case with them, considering that this is a complex issue, if all the issues are not dealt with they can be narrowed down.

Once discussion begins, Mr. Munroe said he is hoping the government will then begin to understand why no one else imposes stamp duties on gaming, which he said is because it leaves his clients with what he termed an administrative headache.

"For instance, you can buy a 10 cent number, the stamp tax on that is point five or half a cent which isn't a currency, so our issue is to either round up or round down.

"If you round up, you over tax the person, so they've now told us to round down; but I'm being told by my clients that persons will simply buy singularly 10 cent numbers 5 cent numbers, avoid the tax altogether while increasing the administrative burdens on my clients to sell tickets singularly.

"Right now you would see someone with a long list of

maybe 20 ten cent numbers and that \$2, but now if they want to avoid a 5 per cent stamp tax, they will buy each one of those numbers on an individual piece of paper with no stamp duty paid on it," Mr. Munroe said.

Mr. Munroe said that even after the government work out how they decide what the percentage will be, he still says the tax is discriminatory and that you cannot discriminate based on origin.

"So whenever they define what the percentage is to be worked on, if they choose to act, still as they have been doing discriminatorily between the gaming houses and the casino, then there will be a challenge to that discriminatory practice," he said.

Attorney General Carl Bethel after the Supreme Court hearing on August 31st told reporters that the government is open to have these discussions with the gaming operator's legal team.

Both sides are set to return to court on October 5th.



GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
THE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE
MONITORING REFORM PROJECT (PFM/PMR)
IT SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER POSITION AVAILABLE



Title: IT Systems Development Manager

This notice is placed on behalf of The Ministry of Finance to provide background information regarding the objectives of the PFM/PMR Project to enable interested persons who meet the stated and other criteria to determine their eligibility and respond to this advertisement to offer their services under the requirements of the project. The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (GoB) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) under loan #3340/OC- BH to partially/totally fund the contract cost.

SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PFM/PMR will improve the Financial Management and Performance Monitoring capabilities of the Public Sector. Component IV: Public Procurement will modernize the public procurement system, promote efficient market competition & deliver value for money. The GoB is seeking a consultant to act as the focal point for overall development and delivery of complex internal/external IT system development projects across a variety of products and technologies.

DESCRIPTION OF ENGAGEMENT

The consultancy will take place over a 12 month period in Nassau, Bahamas. A detailed work plan with timeline to achieve the deliverables must be submitted 7 working days after contract signing.

FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Specifically, the consultant, in coordination with the Chief Procurement Officer, and the PFM/PMR Component IV Coordinator, shall

- Manage the delivery of multiple complex simultaneous system development projects from design through to release.
- Understand and contribute to technical solutions from design through to code level.
- Provide progress updates and work closely with outsourced providers to ensure the management of any delivery risks or issues.
- Define, document and report on project delivery phases including activities, sub-activities, milestones, event log, issues and risk log.
- Ensure awareness, involvement and support from the key stakeholders and participants by building strong project teams robust communication on the project status throughout its life cycle.
- Participate in reviews and meetings and provide updates on project progress.
- Take responsibility for ensuring that risks/issues are identified and managed closely and drive all stakeholders to deliver on time and to the required quality standards.
- Work closely with relevant teams internally to ensure alignment and coordination across operations as part of the seamless implementation of existing and new systems.
- Contributing to post-implementation reviews helping to demonstrate success or otherwise of projects and to introduce processes to yield more predictable results.
- Drive major and significant stability and performance improvements.

EDUCATION SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor level in Software Development, IT, or other similar disciplines
- At least 5 years of relevant experience in the private sector, non-profit or public sector (preferred)
- Experience of people management and the ability to lead and influence others including, formal personal development planning and individual, team and process performance management
- Experience in a variety of software development approaches and methodologies including Agile and Waterfall
- Experience in the development of software using open source platforms as Apache, PostgreSQL, Java-based technologies and open contracting data standards, and usage of UML.

SELECTION PROCESS

The individual for the consultancy will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost for National Individual procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank Policies for the selection and contracting of consultants financed by the Inter-American Bank (Document GN-2350-9). Note that the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has the authority to reject any and all proposals without an explanation. Procurement notices will be posted online at www.bahamas.gov.bs CVs must be delivered by e-mail by 5:00pm, Friday, September 28th, 2018 to pfmpmr@bahamas.gov.bs.

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ROYAL CARIBBEAN WELCOMES PARTICIPANTS OF THE RBPF SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. recently hosted participants of the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) Summer Youth Programme to tour the Allure of the Seas while the ship was docked in Nassau.

The excursion, the second in a series to be organized by Royal Caribbean and Reuben Rahming, Member of Parliament for Pinewood, sought to showcase areas of the 18-deck ship most appealing to the young visitors ranging in age from 4-16, all participants in the Southeastern division of the police-sponsored programme. The first tour was held onboard the Oasis of the Seas a few weeks earlier for senior citizens of the Pinewood area.

"Many times we get in a rut as a nation by looking just for traditional opportunities and ignoring the rest," said Rahming, explaining the impetus for today's tour. "There is a deliberate attempt by us in Pinewood to show our people the benefits that we have not just on land but air and sea. We want our people to understand that apart from building a hotel on land that each one of these ships are, in of themselves, hospitality machines. We want them to be able to acquaint themselves with the vision of it so that they know there are opportunities there."

Royal Caribbean recently re-affirmed its commitment to careers with the world's largest global cruise line for Bahamians, onboard its ships

throughout the world, at its private island destinations including CocoCay in the Berry Islands and at its administration and operations headquarters in Miami. The cruise line has committed to the employment of at least 200 Bahamians a year for the next five years and has partnered with the National Training Agency to develop a training program to provide those who aspire to a career in hospitality with the opportunity to participate in innovative training and development.

The group gathered in Boleros, one of the ship's swanky lounges, for a brief welcome by Allure of the Seas' Hotel Director Paul Smith. With the tour underway the group was led to Flowrider, a simulated wave pool where many of the children stood in awe as a guest balanced on a surfboard. They tried their swing at the mini golf course a few feet away. The tour of the youth-friendly features continued with visits to the Adventure Ocean, the largest space at sea dedicated to activities for the youth and surrounding areas.

The open-air garden, aptly named Central Park, provided a suitable location for a brief break with children and adults stopping for selfies. Further navigation around the \$1.2 billion, 5,400-guest, and 1,187-foot ship brought the tour to the Boardwalk Carousel where kids, accustomed to smart devices and



Participants of the Southeastern Division of the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) Summer Youth Programme were welcomed aboard Royal Caribbean International's Allure of the Seas for a tour while the ship was docked in Nassau. Pictured l-r: Sgt. Deandrea Barr, coordinator for the Southeastern Division RBPF Summer Youth Programme, Hon. Reuben Rahming, Member of Parliament for Pinewood; 3rd from right, Paul Smith, Hotel Director, Allure of the Seas.

fast-track video games, took delight in taking a ride on the artistic traditional hand-carved carousel. After working up an appetite, the tour ended with a buffet lunch at Windjammer Marketplace.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to expose the children, some of whom are from the inner city of New Providence, to an environment they may not otherwise have access to and giving them an appreciation for the cruise lifestyle," said Sgt. Deandrea Barr, coordinator for the Southeastern Division of the RBPF Summer Youth Programme.



Participants of the Royal Bahamas Police Force Summer Youth Programme were excited when they came across the Science Lab aboard the Allure of the Seas during a tour of the ship arranged by Royal Caribbean.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Grand Bazaar & Raffle

Saturday, September 29th, 2018
12 noon - 10 pm

Church Grounds: Robinson & Claridge Road

Lots of Food & Games for All Ages!

Stalls	Games
HOME COOKERY	PUNCH BOARD
JERK (CHICKEN & PORK)	TIC-TAC-TOE
CONCH FRITTERS	LOLLIPOP SURPRISE
CONCH & FRIES	WHEEL OF FORTUNE
HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS	HOOPLA
SNOW CONES & DAIQUIRIS	CLOWN FACE
SODAS & ICE CREAM	DRESS FOR LESS
CAKES & SWEETS	BINGO
CHICKEN WINGS & FRIES	SPLAT BALL
TEA PARTY/FASHION SHOW	COTTON CANDY
SORBET & RELIGIOUS ITEMS	BODY ART
INTERNATIONAL CUISINE	BOOKS & PLANTS
DUCK POND	

KIDDIE CORNER

GRAND PRIZE

2019 Nissan Kicks

1 ticket \$10
11 tickets \$100

Bahamas Maritime Authority

EXCITING AND CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITY

FOR YOUNG BAHAMIANS

- Can you imagine a career that will take you to the world's most fascinating ports and far flung destinations?
- Do you have 5 BGCSE passes, including Math, Physics or Chemistry, and English Language at Grade 'C' or above?
- Have you obtained a combined SAT score of at least 1500?
- Are you physically fit?
- Are you between the age of 16 and 20 years?

If you have answered **YES** to the above questions, then please read on.

The Bahamas Maritime Authority is once again offering a scholarship to a young Bahamian, who is keen to train for an exciting and challenging career in the Maritime Industry.

The scholarship is inclusive of tuition, course materials, accommodation and travel. Commencing September 2019, the successful candidate will follow a 4-year degree programme at the State University New York Maritime College, New York, USA. Upon completion of the degree, the qualified officer will be expected to serve on board a Bahamian flagged vessel for at least 2 years.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from:

Mrs. Katie Clarke
Nassau Branch Manager
Bahamas Maritime Authority

Website: www.bahamasmaritime.com
Email: scholarship@bahamasmaritime.com
Tel: +1-(242)-356-5772
Fax: +1-(242)-356-5889

Completed applications must be submitted in person or by post, with copies of academic certificates/transcripts and proof of Bahamian citizenship, no later than Friday, 28th September 2018. Qualified applicants will be contacted for interviews.